

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

1           18. (currently amended) In a license issuing system in which a license-issuing  
2 computer, a seller computer, and a purchaser computer are coupled to communicate with each  
3 other, wherein:  
4           the seller computer requests input of client information, product information and  
5 license program information to the purchaser computer;  
6           upon receiving the information, the purchaser computer transfers the client  
7 information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer;  
8           the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program  
9 information, but not ~~without~~ the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and  
10           the license-issuing computer issues a license key for the program specified by the  
11 license program information ~~to the purchaser computer through the seller computer~~ upon  
12 authentication of the product information received from the seller computer.

1           19. (currently amended) A license key issuing system for use by three computers  
2 coupled via a network, the system comprising:  
3           a purchaser computer for receiving client information, product information and  
4 license program information;  
5           a seller computer connected the purchaser computer to receive the client  
6 information, the product information and the license program information ~~from the purchaser~~  
7 ~~computer~~, and in response provide ~~providing~~ the product information and the license program  
8 information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer, ~~to a license-issuing~~  
9 ~~computer~~, together with a request for a license key;

10                   the license-issuing computer issuing a license key to the seller computer in  
11 response to a request ~~from the purchaser computer~~ upon authentication of the product  
12 information;

13                   the seller computer then transmitting the license key to the purchaser computer  
14 ~~upon receiving it from the license-issuing computer.~~

1                   20. (currently amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for  
2 issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3                   a program which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product  
4 information and license program information from product information, and which does not  
5 allow the license-issuing computer to store client information, wherein the license program  
6 information[[,]] and the client information provided are provided by an individual to a seller  
7 computer; and

8                   a program which authenticates the product information and issues a license key  
9 for a program specified by the license program information.

1                   21. (currently amended) A license-issuing computer ~~which is~~ connected to a  
2 network for issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3                   a program which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a product  
4 number, a license program name, ~~and trial and a trial~~ license key, but not client information,  
5 from a purchaser who enters that information into a seller computer; and

6                   a program which authenticates the product number, and in response issues a trial  
7 license key to allow use of a program specified by the license program name for a given time  
8 ~~upon receiving the product number and the license program name.~~

1                   22. (currently amended) A license-issuing computer as in claim 21 characterized  
2 in that the license-issuing computer issues a license for a program stored ~~installed~~ in a data  
3 storage system.

1           23. (previously presented) A license-issuing computer connected to a network  
2 for issuing license keys, the license-issuing computer including:

3                 a program in which the license-issuing computer receives a product number, a  
4 license program name, but not client information, from a purchaser;

5                 a program in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the  
6 product number and issues a trial license key to allow limited use of the license program; and

7                 a program in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the trial license  
8 key when the license-issuing computer receives the license program name and the trial license  
9 key, and which issues a paid license key.

1           24. (currently amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a  
2 license key to a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer  
3 through a network, the seller computer including:

4                 a program which requests client information, product information and license  
5 program information from the purchaser computer ~~through the network~~;

6                 a program which receives the client information, the product information and the  
7 license program information from the purchaser computer, and which transmits only the product  
8 information and the license program information to the license-issuing ~~computer, and computer~~;  
9 and

10                a program which receives the license key from the license-issuing computer and  
11 transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1           25. (currently amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a  
2 license key to a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer  
3 ~~through a network~~, the seller computer including :

4                 a program which requests input of client information, product information and  
5 license program information to the purchaser computer, through the network;

6                 a program which receives the client information, the product information and the  
7 license program information from the purchaser computer ~~through the network~~ and transmits  
8 only the product information and the license program information to the license-issuing  
9 ~~computer, and computer~~; and

10 a program which receives the license key from the license-issuing computer and  
11 transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 26. (currently amended) A seller computer which requests a trial license key to  
2 allow use of a computer program for a trial period, and a special license key which extends the  
3 trial period ~~of the trial license key~~ in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a  
4 network, the seller computer including:

5 means for receiving input of a product number, a license program name, and a  
6 trial license key from a purchaser;

7 means for providing a license key received from a license-issuing computer;

8 a program which requests input of client information, the product number, and the  
9 license program name to the purchaser computer;

10 a program which receives the client information, the product information and the  
11 license program information from the purchaser computer and transmits only one of (1) the  
12 product information and the license program information to the license-issuing computer or (2)  
13 the product number, the license program name and the trial license key to the license-issuing  
14 computer; and

15 a program which receives the trial license key from the license-issuing computer  
16 and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 27. (currently amended) A method for a seller computer to request a license key  
2 from a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a  
3 network, the method comprising:

4 a step in which the seller computer receives client information, a product number  
5 and a license program name from a purchaser computer;

6 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number and the license  
7 program name, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer;

8 a step in which the seller computer receives a trial license key to allow use of the  
9 program for a given period;

10 a step in which the seller computer transmits the trial license key to the purchaser  
11 computer;

a step in which the seller computer inputs the client information, the product number, the license program name and the trial license key communicated from a purchaser therein,

a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number, the license program name and the trial license key to the license-issuing computer,

a step in which the seller computer receives a special license key for extending a trial period by the trial license key from the license-issuing computer, and

a step in which the seller computer ~~outputs the special license key and~~ transmits the special license key to the purchaser.

28. (currently amended) A licensing issuing method of a license issuing system comprising a license-issuing computer, a seller computer, a purchaser computer, and a network which connects the license-issuing computer, the seller computer and the purchaser computer, ~~wherein~~wherein:

the license-issuing computer requests input of client information, product information and license program information to the purchaser computer to send to ~~through~~ the seller computer;

the purchaser computer transfers the client information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer in response to the request from the license-issuing computer;

the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and

the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program specified by the license program information upon authentication of the product information.

1           29. (previously presented) A license issuing method of a license-issuing  
2 computer which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the  
3 network, the license issuing method including:

4                 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives product information, license  
5 program information, but not client information, from data input by a purchaser;

6                 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product  
7 information; and

8                 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program  
9 specified by the license program information when the authentication is normally finished.

1           30. (previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein the license-issuing  
2 computer issues a license key for a program specified by a license program name.

1           31. (currently amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer  
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,  
3 the license issuing method including:

4                 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a product number, a license  
5 program name, but not client information, the product number and the license program name  
6 provided by the purchaser~~which a purchaser inputs~~;

7                 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product number;

8                 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key to allow use  
9 of a program specified by the license program name for a given period;

10                a step in which the license-issuing computer receives the product number, the  
11 license program name and the trial license key, the product number, the license program name  
12 and the trial license key ~~which a purchaser inputs from the seller computer through the network,~~  
13 key;

14                a step in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the trial  
15 license key; and

16                a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a special license key which  
17 extends a trial period.

- 1                   32. (previously presented) A license issuing method characterized in that the
- 2   license issuing method according to claim 31 issues the license for a program installed in a data
- 3   storage system.